

EXCERPT FROM BOOK, "THE ROAD TO THE RECONSTRUCTION
OF THE WORLD" BY HASHIMOTO

"1. Advice to Young People

"Education of the nations

"Since graduating from the Military Staff College, I have been immersed in my study of revolutionary Russia in the Russian Section of the General Staff Office. In 1927, I unexpectedly was appointed attache to the Turkish Embassy by official order and frequently had intimate talks with the Minister Kemal, having had dinner with him in Angora, Capital of Turkey. After my three years' stay in Europe, I returned to my native country in 1930.

"During my stay in Europe, when I observed the politics of Stalin of Soviet Russia, Mussolini of Italy, Hitler of Germany, and Riza Khan of Persia, which were the main objects of my study, and to say nothing of Kemal in my appointed country, I keenly felt that these countries were moving strongly toward government control with unanimous consent, although it was not clear what they would demand or although the source was not the same.

"I entertain fears for my native country

"When I observed Japan through the Japanese papers, studying the tendency and actual conditions of these countries and being impressed by the above mentioned emotion, during my three years' stay in Europe, I was clearly conscious that Japan was the only country within the whirlpool of world movement that stood within the bounds of liberalism and regarded liberalism as the one and best ideal. I considered that if Japan goes on under the present conditions, she would drop from the ranks in the community of nations and cause the downfall of Japan. I thought it was not then time for me to stay nonchalantly overseas but to return as soon as possible and to do something about it.

"At this time, fortunately, I was ordered to go back and with an irresistible longing for home, sailed across the Indian Ocean toward my fatherland in an easterly direction. During my thirty days' voyage, I pondered on how to reform Japan and as the result, I succeeded in drawing a definite plan to a certain degree. And on returning to the General Staff Office, my former haunt, I devised several schemes in order to put my ideas into execution. Although I dare not say it was the only cause of such results, however, the Manchurian Incident, secession from the League of Nations, and renunciation of the disarmament treaty took place successively and within the country. 5.15 Incident, SHANPEI TAI Incident, and the 2.26 Incident took place in succession."